

Application Serial No.: 10/072,345

Attorney Docket No.: 0190142

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the *Non-Final* Office Action of November 4, 2004, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-20. By the present amendment, claims 1-2 and 8-17 have been amended. After the present amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of outstanding claims 1-20 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Chen (USPN 6,552,744) ("Chen").

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application and to further clarify claim 1, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "wherein an effective resolution of the single enhanced image is greater than a resolution of each of the two or more images." Applicant respectfully submits that Chen fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the panoramic image 41 (assuming, arguendo, it is an enhanced image) has an effective resolution that is greater than the resolution of each of the overlapping discrete images 35. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claim 3 should be allowed.

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B. Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 2, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Howell (USPN 6,570,613) ("Howell").

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 depends from claim 1, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of claim 1.

C. Rejection of Claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 5, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Chen.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of claim 1.

D. Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 6, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Okada, et al. (USPN 6,727,954) ("Okada").

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 depends from claim 1, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of claim 1.

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E. Rejection of Claim 7 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 7, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Sayag (USPN 5,585,847) ("Sayag").

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 depends from claim 1, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of claim 1.

F. Rejection of Claims 8-10, 12-16, 18 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10, 12-16, 18 and 19, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Yamada, et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0126209) ("Yamada") in view of Chen. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner acknowledges that Yamada fails to disclose, teach or suggest combining pixel values, but the Examiner states that Chen discloses "combining the correlated pixels of the two or more selected images into a single enhanced image (panoramic image 41) (col. 5, lines 32-35)." Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not considered the specific limitations of claim 8, which now reads "means for combining the first plurality of pixel values with the second plurality of pixel values to generate an enhanced image, such that an effective resolution of the enhanced image is greater than a resolution of either the first image or the second image." It is respectfully submitted that claim 8, prior to present amendment, specifically recited that "the effective resolution of an enhanced image produced by the

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means for combining is greater than the resolution of either the first image or the second image"; however, the Examiner has not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing that Chen discloses, teaches or suggests such limitation. The Examiner merely states that Chen discloses combining the overlapping discrete images 35 to generate a panoramic image 41 by correlating pixels of the overlapping discrete images 35. However, Chen fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the panoramic image 41 (assuming, arguendo, it is an enhanced image) has an effective resolution that is greater than the resolution of each of the overlapping discrete images 35.

Accordingly, claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-10 and 12-14 should be allowed for the reasons stated above. Further, independent claim 15 has limitations similar to those of claim 8 described above. Accordingly, claim 15 and its dependent claims 16, 18 and 19 should also be allowed.

G. Rejection of Claims 11 and 17 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 17, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Chen, and further in view of Okada.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 17 depend from claims 8 and 15, respectively, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of claims 8 and 15, respectively.

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H. Rejection of Claim 20 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 20, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Chen, and further in view of Sayag.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 depends from claim 15, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of claim 15.

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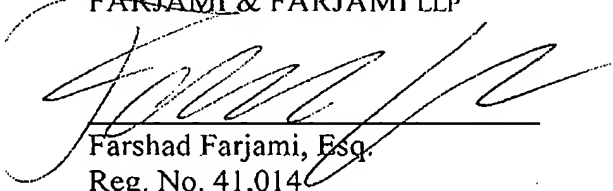
I. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-20 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant would like to advise the Examiner of a recent change in the attorneys of record. Applicant respectfully requests that all correspondence regarding the present application be made to the address shown below.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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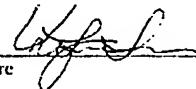

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